MR. CHAIRMAN: Please allow the Question Hour to proceed. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री एस0एस0 अहलुवालिया: मंहगाई दिन-पर-दिन बढ़ती जा रही है और गरीब लोगों के लिए दो समय की रोटी भी नहीं मिल रही है **...(व्यवधान)...**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please allow the Question Hour to proceed. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज: महोदय, प्रधान मंत्री जी जा रहे है **...(व्यवधान)...** प्रधान मंत्री जी जा रहे हैं **...(व्यवधान)...**

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Small Savings Scheme of Post Offices

*443. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is negative growth in Small Savings Scheme of Post Offices with huge withdrawals over deposits into such schemes in the last year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this negative growth will lead to a drastic deficit in National Social Security Fund (NSSF);

(c) if so, whether Government has analysed the reasons for this negative growth;

(d) the steps taken by Government for the growth of this scheme; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. More withdrawals (including redemption on maturity) are noticed than deposits overall in Small Savings Schemes of Post Offices during the financial year 2007-08 upto February, 2008.

Department of Posts does not deal with National Social Security Fund (NSSF). However, given the position of the National Small Savings Fund (NSSF), the present trend of deposits is unlikely to lead to drastic deficit in the Fund.

(c) to (e) The trend in collections, *inter-alia,* reflect investor's preference for other alternative savings instruments. Over a period of time, investment options available have increased both in number and variety, offering a wider choice to investors for their savings. De-regulation of the interest rates relating to banks, financial institutions and debt markets have also contributed to directing the flow of savings into instruments other than small savings schemes of the Government, which are subjected to administered interest rates.

With a view to sustaining investor's interest in small saving schemes, the features of the schemes are reviewed from time to time and various improvements and amendments in the schemes are introduced. Some of the recent measure include:—

(i) The benefit of Section 80C of the Income Tax Act, 1961 has been extended to the investments made under 5 Year Post Office Time Deposits Account and Senior Citizens Savings Scheme, with effect from 01.04.2007.

(ii) Introduction of a Bonus at the rate of 5% on the deposts made under Post Office Monthly Income Account (POMIA) Scheme on or after 8th December, 2007 upon the maturity of the deposit.

(iii) With effect from 1.8.2007, the maximum deposit ceiling of Rs. 3.00 lakh and Rs. 6.00 lakh under the Post Office Monthly Income Account (POMIA) scheme has been raised to Rs. 4.5 lakh and Rs. 9.00 lakh in respect of single and joint accounts respectively.

Agreement for collection of toll tax on NHs

†*445. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that with regard to various projects under an agreement reached between private agencies collecting toll tax on National Highways and representatives of Government, the collector of toll tax shares a certain percentage of revenue with Government; and

if so, the details thereof and names of projects on which the above agreement is in place as on March, 2008 with percentage of revenues to be earned by Government?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Revenue sharing as a concept was introduced in the new Model Concession Agreement (MCA) for Public Private Partnership in National Highways which came into effect from September 2006. Toll revenue is shared in accordance with the provisions of the concession agreement entered between the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and the concessionaire. Based on the new MCA, seven projects have been awarded. Details of revenue share of NHAI as per the agreements are given in the Statement-I (See below). Four Concession Agreements signed prior to the new MCA also have revenue sharing provision. Details are given at Statement-II.

Statement-I

Details of revenue share of NHAI as per the agreements

Projects on new MCA

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Concessionaire	Revenue share to NHAI	
			Revenue share from appointed date*	Revenue share at end of concession period
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Six-laning of existing 4-lane Chennai-Tada section (km. 11 to km. 54.40)	Larsen & Toubro Ltd.	17.07%	31.07%
2.	Six-laning of existing 4-lane Ourgaon-Kotputli-Jaipur section (km. 42.70 to km. 273)	Emirates Trading Agency LLC-KMC construction Ltd.	48.06%	59.06%

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.